



Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Ladies and gentlemen,

Recently you received documents regarding the Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) proposal to purchase a conservation easement from Chris Moline, owner of the Moline Ranch. This conservation easement constitutes 4,902 acres of deeded Moline Ranch property located approximately 20 miles east of Geraldine in eastern Chouteau County.

Comments received regarding the FWP/Moline Ranch Conservation Easement Proposal are summarized in the enclosed Decision Notice. There are two (2) necessary modifications/additions to the EA and two (2) to the Management Plan that were brought to our attention during the comment period. It was pointed out by the BLM and DNRC that the grazing formula dates may not always coincide with agency dates/times. They requested language in the EA to address those dates and to confirm mutual management and monitoring of the grazing system. Also, language clarifying public access to legally accessible public lands adjacent to Moline Ranch was clarified. In the Management Plan, costs to implement the grazing system and to identify how recreationists obtain permission for hiking/wildlife viewing outside of hunting season dates was clarified. The modifications/additions to the EA and Management Plan are detailed in the MODIFICATIONS TO ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS AND MANAGEMENT PLAN section of this decision notice.

No other modifications were made in the documents you received after the public review period. Please consider your previous copies of the Environmental Assessment and Management Plan along with edits as final. It is my recommendation to purchase a conservation easement from the Moline Ranch utilizing FWP's Habitat Montana funds, subject to approval by the FWP Commission. The FWP Commission will be asked to approve the purchase of this easement at their meeting on October 7, 2010. The Montana Board of Land Commissioners will ultimately have final vote at their regularly scheduled meetings in October or November, should the FWP Commission approve to proceed with the conservation easement.

Thank you for your interest and involvement.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gary Bertellotti". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Gary" being more prominent.

Gary Bertellotti
Region 4 Supervisor
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
Great Falls, MT
(406) 454-5840
gbertellotti@mt.gov

Decision Notice

Moline Ranch Conservation Easement

Environmental Assessment

Prepared By:
Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks
Region 4 Wildlife Division
4600 Giant Springs Rd.
Great Falls MT 59405

Sept 15, 2010

INTRODUCTION

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) has the authority under law (MCA 87-1-201) to protect, enhance and regulate the use of Montana's fish and wildlife resources for public benefit now and in the future. In 1987, the Montana Legislature passed House Bill (HB) 526, which earmarked hunting license revenues to secure wildlife habitat through lease, conservation easement or fee title acquisition (MCA 87-1-241 and 242). This is now referred to as FWP's Habitat Montana Program. Habitat Montana recognizes that certain native plant communities constituting wildlife habitat are worthy of perpetual conservation. Those communities include intermountain grasslands, sagebrush grasslands and riparian corridors. The Moline Ranch includes such habitats and warrants conservation considerations. A conservation easement was offered to FWP by Chris Moline, owner of Moline Ranch. This offer reflects the Landowner's desire to maintain and protect the family's agricultural and ranching lifestyle, while maintaining and/or enhancing wildlife habitats. This easement would ensure the property remains in private ownership and operation, while preserving important agricultural lands, wildlife habitats, open space and historic sites. The easement would also guarantee reasonable public access for hunting and wildlife viewing on the project area. As with other FWP property interest proposals, the Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Commission must approve any easement acquisition proposed by the Department. In addition, the Montana Board of Land Commissioners is also required to review and approve the Department's proposal for this conservation easement acquisition as this action has a value greater than \$100,000 and is larger than 100 acres. This Decision Notice is part of that evaluation process.

Since the Moline Ranch meets requirements of the Habitat Montana program, FWP Region 4 Supervisor recommends that the Fish, Wildlife & Parks Commission approve the purchase of the proposed conservation easement from Chris Moline.

MONTANA ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT PROCESS

FWP is required to assess impacts to the human and physical environment under the Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA). The Moline Ranch Conservation Easement proposal and its effects were documented by FWP in an Environmental Assessment.

PUBLIC COMMENT

A public comment period was established from August 2, 2010 through September 2, 2010. Public notices of the proposed action were offered to about 50 newspapers and/or news outlets in the state and also placed on the FWP website. A public meeting was held at the Geraldine Community Town Hall on August 23, 2010. Approximately 75 copies of the Environmental Assessment were distributed to adjacent Landowners, sportsmen groups, County Commissioners, Montana Stockgrowers Association, MT DEQ and other interested parties both via mail and/or email. Copies were also available at the FWP Region 4 Headquarters during indicated comment period. All comments received remain on file at the Great Falls FWP office and are available for public review. Consideration and evaluation of public comment is distilled in the attached Public Comment and Issues Addendum to the EA.

Public Meeting: A public meeting was held at the Geraldine Community Hall on August 23, 2010, having 22 individuals attending. Additionally, FWP representation included: Region 4 Supervisor Gary Bertellotti, Region 4 Wildlife Manager Graham Taylor and Region 4 Great Falls Area Biologist Cory Loecker. Landowner Chris Moline and daughter were present. Meeting officer Graham Taylor explained the format and purpose of the meeting. Copies of the EA, Management Plan and comment sheet were made available to all attendees. Following the informational presentation of the draft EA and Management Plan by wildlife biologist Cory Loecker, an informative question and answer session ensued. Summary of comments and questions from the public meeting are detailed in the Public Comment and Issues Addendum attached to this Decision Notice.

Written Comments: Written comment totaled 32, all of which were received in a timely fashion and were included in the analysis. Thirty (30) responses endorsed the "Proposed Action" alternative of the draft EA, with two (2) respondents opposing the "Proposed Action" of FWP purchasing a Conservation Easement from Moline Ranch, choosing Alternative A "No Action". The responses are included in a Public Comment and Issues Addendum attached to this Decision Notice. Further analysis of comment follows:

Comment opposed to FWP purchasing conservation easement (support "No Action")	2
-2 MT resident responses	
Comment supporting FWP purchase of conservation easement (support "Proposed Action")	30
- all MT residents	
Total comments received	32

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Based on the analysis in the EA and in consideration of public comment addressed in the Addendum, FWP has selected the preferred "Proposed Action" alternative. This decision is in the best interest of the public, wildlife and wildlife habitat resources and is consistent with current Habitat Montana program guidelines, goals and objectives. FWP has reviewed the EA and applicable laws, regulations and policies and has determined that this action will not have a significant effect on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement is not necessary.

MODIFICATIONS TO ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS AND MANAGEMENT PLAN

Two (2) modifications/additions to the EA and two (2) to the Management Plan are necessary.

EA page 5 (clarification): A secondary result of this project is guaranteed public hunting and wildlife viewing access. The public will also be provided hunting and recreational access to approximately 14,200 acres of adjoining BLM and DNRC lands (Exhibit B) into perpetuity through this Easement. These neighboring public lands currently have no legal public access. This proposed conservation easement require an operating Management Plan, including a detailed hunting and recreational access plan for both Moline Ranch and adjoining public lands. *Moline Ranch will be provided with signs stating "Moline Ranch Conservation Easement Boundary" to identify property boundaries on deeded Moline Ranch property. Adjacent Landowners will be responsible for maintaining proper boundary signage in locations visible to recreationists as in the past. Public lands accessible via Moline Ranch Conservation Easement will also be signed in areas of potential bottlenecks and at the corners. Maps indicating recreational access rules and property ownerships will be available at parking lots (sign-in boxes) and also available from FWP Region 4 headquarters and FWP Lewistown office. GPS waypoints for some identified corners of BLM/DNRC lands will be listed and identified on the hunting maps. Signage and map availability will assist recreationists in identifying property ownership and boundaries to prevent trespass onto neighboring private lands.*

EA page 6 (clarification): BLM and DNRC lands under Moline Ranch lease will continue to be grazed according to *those agencies* use restrictions. BLM and DNRC grazing lease lands are not part of the conservation easement, but *may be* included in the grazing management plan. *Dates of use and pasture delineations are detailed in the Management Plan and will be mutually agreed upon by BLM, DRNC, FWP and the landowner.* Moline Ranch leases with BLM and/or DNRC will still follow those agency's lease stipulations/guidelines. Only deeded Moline Ranch acres are subject to Easement terms.

Management Plan (clarification): To implement the grazing plan, the FWP (Habitat MT Program or Upland Game Bird Habitat Enhancement Program) will cost share (50/50) with the Landowner. Approximately 3.25 miles pipeline, 5 storage tanks and 4.5 miles of new fence construction will be installed to implement the grazing system. One (1) mile of fence will be removed. Cost to FWP for water developments, fence construction and removal will be approximately \$50,000. *BLM, DNRC, FWP and landowner(s) will work cooperatively to implement the grazing system (i.e. fence locations, water developments, tank locations, pasture delineations, etc).* After fencing and water developments are completed to implement the grazing system, land maintenance including but not limited to fence and water development construction and repair, noxious weed control and necessary road repairs, shall be the responsibility of the Landowner as defined in the terms of the Conservation Easement. FWP will monitor grazing plan adherence to assess effectiveness, functionality and Landowner compliance. Livestock use, distribution *and monitoring* will also be assessed annually.

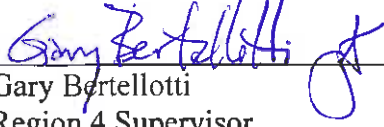
Management Plan (addition to access rules): *10) Wildlife viewing, via foot travel only from parking areas, is available throughout the year with Landowner permission.*

DECISION

Utilizing the Environmental Analysis, Management Plan, Socio Economic Analysis and public comment, a decision must be rendered by FWP that addresses the interests and issues identified for this proposed project. Given results of FWP's analysis coupled with public comment, FWP's purchase of this conservation easement from Chris Moline utilizing Habitat Montana funds is warranted. After review of this proposal and the corresponding public support and comment, it is my recommendation that FWP purchase a conservation easement from Chris Moline subject to approval by the FWP Commission.

CONCLUSION

By publication of this Decision Notice, the draft EA with noted modifications is hereby made the final EA. The finding of selection for the preferred "Proposed Action" alternative is the product of this Decision Notice.



Gary Bertellotti
Region 4 Supervisor
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
4600 Giant Springs Rd.
Great Falls, MT 59405
(406) 454-5940
gbertellotti@mt.gov

9/15/10
Date

MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS
Moline Ranch Conservation Easement
Environmental Assessment

Public Comment and Issues Addendum

Public comment was solicited on the draft Environmental Assessment “Moline Ranch Conservation Easement” from August 2, 2010 through September 2, 2010. Written comment totaled 32 responses, all of which were received in a timely fashion and were included in the analysis. Thirty (30) responses endorsed the “Proposed Action” alternative of the draft EA, with two (2) respondents opposing the “Proposed Action” of FWP purchasing a Conservation Easement from Moline Ranch, choosing Alternative A “No Action”. The responses are included in a Public Comment and Issues Addendum attached to this Decision Notice. Further analysis of comment follows:

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Issues and Comments:

Hunting/Access/Recreation

Comment: Potential for hunter trespass on adjacent private land is imminent - FWP needs to address this in the plan. Need to sign ‘neck points’ along private and BLM land as it faces east off of Parking Area C into Arrow Creek; neck points = public land corridor(s) that narrow down and demand more precision in user knowledge of the terrain in traversing from one piece of public land to another piece of public land w/o trespassing on private. Property borders should be marked to prevent trespass onto neighboring private lands.

Moline Ranch will be provided with signs stating “Moline Ranch Conservation Easement Boundary” to identify property boundaries on deeded Moline Ranch property. Adjacent Landowners will be responsible for maintaining proper boundary signage in locations visible to recreationists as in the past. Public lands accessible via Moline Ranch Conservation Easement will also be signed in areas of potential bottlenecks at the corners. Maps indicating recreational access rules and property ownerships will be available at parking lots (sign-in boxes) and also available from FWP Region 4 headquarters and FWP Lewistown office. GPS waypoints for some identified corners of BLM/DNRC lands will be listed and identified on the hunting maps.

Comment: Hunting parameters are laid out in management plan but no provisions or limits are explained for other recreational access pursuits in seasons outside of hunting season (prairie dog shooters on adjacent private and public lands; birdwatchers; folks who just seem to like to explore by vehicle).

The landowner will also allow recreational access for wildlife viewing, hiking, etc outside of the hunting season dates identified in the hunting access rule page. Individuals must call landowner to obtain proper permission.

Comment: Will hunting provisions in the Management Plan be in place for the fall 2010 seasons?

Should the easement be ultimately approved by the FWP Commission and the Montana State Land Board, hunting/public access would not occur through this easement until thereafter, resulting in public hunting fall 2011.

Comment: Given that Moline can allow hunting beyond that amount specified in the CE, will those extra hunters be held to the same access standards as the 'FWP' CE hunters?

The easement requires the landowner allow a minimum of 800 hunter days to the general public as detailed in the Management Plan hunting rules. The landowner can allow hunting and recreational opportunities in addition to these 800 hunter days. The landowner may give special access provisions to those individuals different than those detailed in the management plan hunting rules page.

Comment: Generic concern expressed for motorized access to public lands coming off of Moline Ranch.

Motorized access on the Moline Ranch to the general public is only allowed on established roads/trails to reach parking areas. Motorized travel to neighboring public lands (BLM/DNRC) is not allowed as stated in the hunting rules page. BLM/DNRC lands have their own motorized travel plan of which the general public must abide.

Comment: If hunting from Moline onto BLM or DNRC lands, can they camp and what is disposition of vehicles in parking areas?

Overnight camping is allowed on the Moline Ranch property for 2 consecutive days only in the described parking lots through the proposed hunting rules of the CE. Both the BLM and DNRC each have different camping regulations on their properties. It is the hunter's responsibility to abide by those agency rules and regulations regarding overnight camping. Hunters may reserve only 2 days per hunt period on the Moline Ranch, thus vehicles in the parking areas are only allowed to be there for 2 consecutive days.

Comment: "Can horses be used for hunting the property?"

Horse use is not mentioned in the easement document or described in the Management Plan recreation/hunting access segment, thus defers to the discretion of the Landowner to allow horse use on the property by hunters and/or recreationist.

Comment: Will this be a Block Management Area?

Current hunting access as defined in the Management Plan does not fall under FWP's Block Management Program. Proposed hunter access will be handled similar to some Block Management Areas, but at this time there are no plans for managing hunting through the Block Management Program.

Comment: Are historical sites existing on the ranch going to be marked or documented/mentioned in the easement?

There are no specific sites detailed or identified in this easement as "Historic or Culturally Importance". There are specific sites on the ranch that may receive historical designations in

the future by the Montana Historical Society. The protection for any of these sites is up to the landowner.

Grazing/Habitat Management

Comment: There should be an AUM cap required on deeded Moline Ranch property to prohibit overgrazing.

FWP does not usually require AUM caps on easement projects because it is not our goal to limit livestock production on working cattle ranches. Through the grazing system design, range and wildlife habitats improve greatly by providing pastures that are rested and deferred from livestock grazing each year. These rested and deferred pastures provide habitat for native fauna with good ground cover, forage, and other habitat components. The upper limit of AUM'S is determined by the grazing system. In other words the stocking rate is left up to the stockman as long as he/she can comply with the grazing system requirements (i.e. timing of grazing, time scheduled for grazing, rotation of use, etc.). If the stockman places more livestock in a pasture than will allow him to conform to the plan he is out of compliance. This approach has worked well for FWP on the more than 100 projects across the state that FWP has been involved with. AUM levels (caps) do not provide the improved habitat we are seeking for wildlife. The improved habitat is accomplished by the rested and deferred pastures. They provide high quality habitat, much more so than would be provided by an AUM number. Our safeguard is the required compliance with the grazing system design which we closely monitor. It is much easier to monitor compliance by checking for rested and deferred pastures than by counting or measuring for AUM's. Trying to monitor AUM's would be very time consuming and require constant surveillance of a ranch. The landowner's primary management goal for lands under easement with FWP is the production of livestock.

Comment: What provisions exist for FWP to monitor and enforce the CE and how does FWP review and monitor easements?

An Easement Baseline Report (Baseline Report), including photographs, maps, surveys, studies, reports, and other documentation, will be completed by a Department biologist or natural resource professional familiar with the area, reviewed by the Department and Landowner, and acknowledged by them, in writing attached as an exhibit in the Deed of Conservation Easement, to be an accurate representation of the physical and biological condition of the Land and its nonresidential physical improvements as of the date of the conveyance of this Easement. The original Baseline Report shall be maintained in the files of the Department and shall be made available to Landowner for inspection and reproduction at Landowner's request. The parties intend that the Baseline Report shall be used by the Department to annually monitor Landowner's compliance with the terms and conditions of this Easement. In the event a controversy arises with respect to the nature of the biological and/or physical condition of the Land and its improvements, the parties may use the Baseline Report, as well as all other relevant or material documents, surveys, reports, or other information to assist in the resolution of the controversy. The Department and Landowner agree that if the Baseline Report contains any summaries of, or representations about the terms or conditions of this Easement, any conflict or inconsistency between the terms and conditions of the Easement and the Baseline Report shall be governed by the express terms and conditions herein and not in the Baseline Report.

If the Department determines that the Landowner has violated the terms of this Easement, or if the Landowner undertakes any activity requiring approval of the Department without first obtaining such approval, the Department shall give written notice to the Landowner of the violation and demand corrective action sufficient to cure the violation, and, when the violations involves injury to the Land resulting from any use or activity inconsistent with the terms of this Easement, to restore the portion of the Land so damaged. If the Landowner:

- 1. Fails to cure the violation within thirty (30) days after receipt of notice from the Department, or*
- 2. Under circumstances where the violation cannot reasonable be cured within a thirty (30) day period, fails to begin curing the violation within the thirty(30) day period (or, within 30 days of Landowner's receipt of notice from the Department, if Landowner fails to agree with the Department in writing on a date by which efforts to cure such violation will reasonably begin), or*
- 3. Fails to continue diligently to cure such violation until finally corrected,*
The Department may bring an action at law or in equity in a court of competent jurisdiction to enforce the terms of this Easement. The Department may seek to enjoin the violation, by temporary or permanent injunction, to require the restoration of the Land to the condition that existed prior to any such injury, and, if restoration is not possible to fully compensate for injury to the Conservation Values, to recover monetary damages for to which it may be entitled for violation of the terms of this Easement.

If the Department, in its sole discretion, determines that a violation is threatened or imminent or that circumstances require immediate action to prevent or mitigate significant damage to the Conservation Values, the Department may pursue its remedies under this paragraph without prior notice to the Landowner or without waiting for the period provided for cure to expire.

The Department's rights under this provision apply equally in the event of either actual or threatened violation of the terms of this Easement. The Landowner agrees that the Department's remedies at law for any violation of the terms of this Easement are inadequate. Accordingly, the Department is entitled to the injunctive relief described in this paragraph, both prohibitive and mandatory, in addition to such other relief to which the Department may be entitled, including specific performance of the terms of this Easement, without the necessity of proving either actual damages or the inadequacy of otherwise available legal remedies. The Department's remedies described in this section are cumulative and are in addition to all remedies available at law or in equity. Nothing contained in this Easement may be construed to entitle the Department to bring any action against the Landowner for any injury to or change in the Land resulting from causes beyond the Landowner's control, including, without limitation, fire, flood, storm, and natural earth movement, or from any prudent action taken to prevent, abate, or mitigate significant injury to the Land resulting from such causes. Enforcement of the terms of this Easement is at the discretion of the Department, and any forbearance by the Department to exercise its rights under this Easement in the event of any breach of any term of this Easement by the Landowner may not be deemed or construed to be a waiver by the Department of that term or of any subsequent breach of the same or any other term of this Easement. No delay or omission by the

Department in the exercise of any right or remedy upon any breach by Landowner may impair the right or remedy or be construed as a waiver, nor may any forbearance or delay give rise to a claim of laches, estoppels or prescription.

Costs of restoration of the Conservation Values that are attributable to Landowner's violation or breach of the terms of this Easement shall be borne by Landowner, unless a court orders otherwise or unless the parties mutually agree to share such costs. Attorney's fees and reasonable costs of suit that are incurred by a prevailing party in enforcing the terms of this Easement against the another party, including recovery of costs and damages if authorized under Montana law for temporary or preliminary injunctive relief that is improvidently granted, shall be borne by the non-prevailing party if so ordered by a court.

If a dispute arises between Landowner and the Department concerning interpretation of the meaning of this Easement or concerning the consistency of any proposed use or activity with the terms or purposes of this Easement, and if Landowner agrees in writing not to proceed with the use or activity pending resolution of the dispute, either Landowner or the Department may refer the dispute to mediation by request made in writing to the other party. Within ten (10) days of receipt of such referral, Landowner and the Department will select an impartial mediator who shall conduct the mediation and thereby assist the parties in resolving the dispute cooperatively. Each party shall pay an equal share of the mediator's fee. In referring any matter arising under this Easement to mediation, Landowner and the Department agree that mediation offers an alternative to the expense and time required to resolve disputes by litigation and is therefore often preferable to litigation. Nevertheless, mediation pursuant to this Paragraph shall be voluntary, and this mediation provision shall not be interpreted as precluding or limiting the parties from seeking legal or equitable remedies available under this Section II.G.

Comment: Who is responsible for controlling noxious weeds on the property?

The landowner retains right to control noxious and invasive weeds by integrated control measures which include: manual, mechanical, chemical, and/or biological techniques. The control and management of weeds shall follow then current State and County recommendations and guidelines. Use of pesticides or fertilizers are limited to only those amounts and to only that frequency of application necessary and recommended by the manufacturer and within Federal and State guidelines and in a manner that will minimize damage to native plants and sagebrush.

Comment: How will the grazing management plan address and effect public (DNRC and BLM) land management for same purpose?

DNRC and BLM grazing management will 'trump' the CE grazing plan on each agency's respective acres, grazing management described in the plan cannot and will not supersede DNRC and BLM grazing management plans; BLM, DNRC, FWP and landowner will coordinate grazing schemes, monitoring efforts and plan compliance.

Comment: Who will monitor grazing and how/when on Moline deeded property?

Prior to implementation of the grazing system, grazing transects will be established on deeded Moline Ranch property. Annual monitoring of these transects will occur by FWP range specialists and be documented.

Comment: Can the landowner change the Management Plan during the process or after the process has been completed?

The Landowner and FWP have met on many occasions to mutually develop the draft Management Plan which was available for public review during the comment period. Shall the proposed conservation easement become final, the Landowner and FWP will annually meet to discuss the Management Plan assessing effectiveness thus determining if changes are deemed necessary. Alterations to the Management Plan, if determined necessary, shall occur upon mutual agreement between the Landowner and FWP. Any proposed changes to the Management Plan will then be available for public review and comment.

Subsurface Mineral/Oil/Gas Rights

Comment: Who owns the mineral rights on deeded land? What provisions exist to address subsurface owners if/when the desire to lease and/or develop their rights?

The Moline Ranch owns the subsurface mineral rights on 4,300 of the deeded acres. The remaining 600 acres has 3 different subsurface mineral rights owners of various proportions. Easement language states "the landowner is prohibited from any surface mining except for removal of small amounts of gravel for use on the Land. The Landowner is allowed subsurface mining only if the conservation values of the land are not threatened."

Comment: Wind and Solar Power- how much and can Moline develop to commercial level?

The landowner retains the right to place or construct, after prior notice to the Department, facilities for the development and utilization of renewable energy resources, including, wind and solar for use principally on the Land by the Landowner; provided that the design and location of any such facilities is subject to the prior approval of the Department.

Comment: How does the CE address utilities, pipelines, transport corridors and the desire to develop same across Moline if minerals/oil/gas is found on DNRC.

The landowner retains the right to install utility structures, lines, conduits, cables, wires, or pipelines (hereafter "utilities" and "utility services") upon, over, under, within, or beneath the land to existing and subsequently constructed structures and improvements that are expressly permitted on the land by this easement. The landowner also retains the right to grant right-of-way easements for utility services to neighboring properties, provided that any such new right-of-way easements do not impair the conservation values protected by this easement.

Cost/Taxes

Comment: The Moline Ranch Conservation Easement is not worth that much money.

FWP had an appraisal completed on the Moline property. The appraised value attributable to the conservation easement was \$988,000. FWP negotiated a bargain sale value of \$750,000 to possibly \$778,000 for the conservation easement. Therefore, the price to be paid for the conservation easement encumbrance is below the appraised fair market value.

Comment: Who pays the taxes and does this devalue the property and therefore the taxable value?

The property will continue to be assessed the same tax value as in the past, of which the landowner will be responsible for payment.

Comment: This will advertise this location and won't we get over run with hunters and reduce wildlife numbers including sage Grouse?

Moline Ranch has allowed public hunting for big game and upland game birds (including sage grouse) on deeded land and to neighboring public lands that are legally accessible. The proposed number of hunter days through the CE is similar to, or less than, what is currently allowed on the ranch. Hunter use and harvest will be annually assessed on the ranch in the future.

Comment: How is public access going to be handled to adjoining BLM/DNRC lands?

Hunters will have to make a reservation to hunt the Moline Ranch CE as detailed in the Management Plan hunting rules. Hunters may hunt the deeded Moline Ranch property and also may hunt legally accessible adjoining public lands with proper permission. Recreationists currently can (and will be able to continue to) access some of the same public lands via the Missouri River by boat. It will be the hunter's responsibility to know where they are to avoid trespass onto neighboring private lands. To inform the public of landownership, a detailed map including property boundaries, topography, access rules and GPS coordinates of some property corners will be provided at sign in boxes in the parking lots. These maps and access rules will also be available at FWP Region 4 offices in Great Falls and Lewistown.